

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name North Fork Valley Rural Historic District
other names/site number DHR File No. 60-574

2. Location Land along both sides of the North Fork of the Roanoke River from the Roanoke
street & number County line to the north to Lusters Gate to the south ☐ not for publication N/A
city, town Blacksburg ☒ vicinity
state Virginia code VA county Montgomery code 121 zip code 24060

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☐ building(s)
☒ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| <u>125</u> | <u>132</u> | buildings |
| <u>5</u> | <u>0</u> | sites |
| <u>14</u> | <u>5</u> | structures |
| <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | objects |
| <u>144</u> | <u>137</u> | Total |

Name of related multiple property listing: Prehistoric and Historic Resources of Montgomery County

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

Director Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling
Domestic: secondary structures
Agriculture: storage
Agriculture: animal facility
Agriculture: agricultural fields

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling
Domestic: secondary structures
Agriculture: storage
Agriculture: animal facility
Agriculture: agricultural fields

7. Description

see continuation sheet

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Other: single-pen and hall-parlor-plan dwellings

Other: center-passage-plan dwellings

Greek Revival

foundation STONE: limestone
walls WOOD: weatherboard
BRICK
roof METAL: tin
other WOOD: log

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Summary Description:

The North Fork Valley Rural Historic District is located in the northeastern quadrant of Montgomery County. The nominated portion of the valley extends for about nine miles from the Roanoke County line to a point about a mile south of the village of Lusters Gate. The valley, which has an average floor elevation of 1,600 feet, represents part of the upper drainage basin of the Roanoke River, the north and south forks of which drain the eastern half of the county. The rural historic district contains a significant rural landscape and an important collection of domestic and agricultural buildings, a historic archaeological site, as well as an early twentieth-century school, two late nineteenth-century churches, and five mid- to late nineteenth-century industrial resources including three standing mills, a tanyard site, and a brick kiln site.

Architectural Description:

The North Fork Valley encompasses bottomland along the Roanoke River and land between Paris Mountain on the southeast and a line of ridges to the northwest. The valley averages about two miles wide from ridge to ridge, but the arable area along the river bottom is much narrower, ranging from roughly one mile at the south end of the district to less than four-tenths of a mile along most of the length. The shallow, narrow river is only a few miles below its headwaters in Roanoke County to the northeast, and it meanders through fertile bottomland bordered by steeply rising hills. The river is fed by numerous streams, including Indian Run, Mill Creek, Dry Run, Pepper Run, Smith Run, and Gallion Branch, which flow chiefly from the higher valley which parallels the north fork at the foot of Brush Mountain. The steep hollows on the northwestern flanks of Paris Mountain do not contribute much water to the North Fork.

The bottomlands are, for the most part, planted with hay and grasses, and limited areas are devoted to corn and sorghum. Many of the farms above the North Fork incorporate historic domestic

☒ See continuation sheet

B. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☒ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture
Architecture
Archaeology: Historic-Non-aboriginal

Period of Significance
ca.1745 to 1940

Significant Dates
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The North Fork Valley Rural Historic District is significant under criteria A, C, and D. It is significant under criterion A as a well-preserved district reflecting important agricultural practices in the region from 1745-1940, as indicated by fields, barns, fences, land use, the relationship of agricultural to domestic structures, and the variety of farms created as later generations settled new farms higher on the mountainsides. The district also is significant under criterion C, as it contains a significant concentration of the county's earliest and most architecturally significant domestic, agricultural, educational, commercial, and industrial buildings and sites. The district is significant as well under criterion D. Testing performed as a part of the project leading up to this nomination identified three sites likely to yield substantial information about occupation of the valley during historic periods. Other sites are likely to exist.

The North Fork Valley was in use by the Archaic Period (7000-1200 B.C.). Archaic hunters and gatherers left some remains in the North Fork Valley, but few have been extensively examined. The Late Prehistoric Period (1000 A.D.-1600 A.D.) saw extensive aboriginal settlement throughout the region, and the valley was no exception. The Shannon Site (44M48), one of the first to be professionally excavated in Southwest Virginia, was located immediately to the south of the district; its destruction was caused by the creation of the Blacksburg Country Club. The club is the principal southern boundary of the district where the area's historic and visual integrity is seriously impaired. The Shannon Site contained a large palisaded village (350 feet in diameter). No significant prehistoric resources have been identified in the district.

The lands bordering the waters of the north and south forks

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Ellsworth, Lucius F. The American Leather Industry. Rand McNally and Company, Chicago, 1969.

Kegley, F. B. Kegley's Virginia Frontier. Roanoke, VA: Southwest Virginia Historical Society, 1933.

Lester, Charles Crumpacker. Interview, May 1988.

Lofstrom, Edward U. A seriation of Historic Ceramics in the Midwest, 1780-1870. Paper presented at the joint Plains-Midwest Anthropological Conference, 1976.

South, Stanley. Method and Theory in Historical Archaeology. Academic Press, Orlando, 1977.

Worsham, Gibson, et al. Montgomery Historic Sites Report. 1986.

☐ See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings

Survey # _____

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering

Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State historic preservation office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Specify repository:

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

221 Governor Street

Richmond, VA 23219

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 10,200 acres.

UTM References (For UTM references refer to Maps 3 & 4)

A 17 565310 4128260
Zone Easting Northing

B 17 564580 412510
Zone Easting Northing

C 17 560370 4119600

D 17 556270 4119500

☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(For Boundary Description points refer to Maps 1 & 2)

Beginning at point A, at the intersection of the Roanoke County line and the ridge of Paris Mountain (UTM 17/565310/4128260), proceeding southwest along the ridge of Paris Mountain southwest 1 1/2 miles to a road, following the east side of the road east, south, and southwest two miles, continuing 500 feet southwest to a pinnacle above Austin Hollow at point

☒ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries were drawn so as to generally include all the farmland and woodland between the ridges which border the North Fork Valley, including several important ridge top features just over the ridge of Paris Mountain, and not including the heavily developed area on the west side of the North Fork south of Lusters Gate. Boundaries were formed by following ridgelines, property lines, roads, county lines, and contour lines.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

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date June 1988

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Historic Functions

Education: school
Commerce/trade: department store
Religion: religious structure
Industry/ Processing/ Extraction:
manufacturing facility

Current Functions

Religion: religious structure

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and agricultural buildings and are today used as cattle and dairy operations. The grazing land extends up the lower slope of the mountains on either side of the valley. In a few locations such as Austin Hollow on Paris Mountain, grazing land can be found high on the slopes, and clearings have been preserved on the crest of the mountain on its sunny southeast side. Several mid-to late nineteenth-century farms remain intact in the higher elevations, but these are only used for pasture or hay cultivation today. The houses (generally log) are utilized in most instances for tenant dwellings or hunting lodges.

The principal route through the valley is VA Route 785, which extends the length of the valley and generally follows the edge of the bottomland along the northwestern side of the Roanoke River through the entire district. The farms in the district generally straddle the road and the river, and include both bottomland and upland pastures as well as steeply sloping wooded areas.

Farms are located in hollows or creek bottomland to the northwest of the valley as well. The houses are located along roads that follow and frequently ford the creeks that rise to the northwest. Most of the district's houses, however, are located on the rising land near the river, in a small grove of trees, or open to the vistas around them. The earlier houses face the river, whether from the southeast or northwest, while the mid-nineteenth-century houses face the road. This orientation, however, may be deceptive. The road almost certainly has been relocated several times, and undoubtedly ran closer to the river at one time. No cardinal points of the compass or sun orientation seem to have guided the builders of houses along the North Fork. The same is true of barns, which appear to have been sited more to adjust to a limited range of options dictated by geography than by any predetermined geometry of house-barn relationships.

Many barns and other outbuildings and fencing locations date from the early nineteenth century through the early twentieth century, illustrating the adaptation of early land forms and patterns to a succession of farming methods and cultural values. In addition, a large proportion of the houses were built as architectural statements of their owners' worth and position. While the earliest houses have vanished without a trace, the houses that survive probably represent the first substantial

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structures on the site. Several of the farms are owned by descendants of the early builders, or by families which have farmed the land for several successive generations. While a few new farm seats have been established, including a 1970s vineyard, most late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century upland farms have been abandoned. Few early farms have been demolished or even neglected in the bottomland of the valley.

The earliest houses in the valley were built of log. The Thomas Rutledge House (60-318) near Lusters Gate, the Plank House (Hoge Farm, 60-378) on the southwestern edge of the district, and the Patterson-Eakin House (60-355) on the northeastern edge of the district are log examples of two-room or hall-parlor dwellings. While the Plank House incorporates an early log structure within a later two-story, center-passage-plan dwelling, the stone north chimney and the Federal-style woodwork indicate that this was probably the home of John Robinson, Jr. (died 1800) who owned the farm in the eighteenth century.

The two-story Thomas Rutledge House has exposed logs (weatherboard was removed, probably in the 1930s [Kegley, p. 615.]) The house is unusual in that the logs are not continuous on the lower part of the facade. This seems to indicate that the smaller of the two rooms was added and that the house was raised in height. On the other hand, the interior detailing is consistent throughout, implying that it was built in one campaign. The smaller log section is pegged to the main pen by vertical wooden members let into the inner and outer faces of the log ends. Unusual heart-shaped vents are found in the south gable end. The Patterson-Eakin House probably is the best preserved example of the hall-parlor dwelling. The small two-story house has a beaded flushboard facade below a one-story porch as well as a slope-shouldered stone chimney.

Several other houses have an early nineteenth-century date of construction, but feature a different construction material and plan. The Woods-Grubb House (60-362) and the Crumpacker-McPherson House (60-360) are large, two-story, brick dwellings that exhibit substantial Flemish bond facades and sophisticated detailing. The Woods-Grubb House appears to date earlier than the Crumpacker-McPherson House and has one of Montgomery County's most interesting floor plans. The plan is a partial realization of the double-pile, center-passage form with a one-story wing opening out of the opposite side of the passage from the main

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pair of rooms. An arched entry door, a molded brick cornice, and enriched Federal woodwork bearing the original red, green, and blue paint scheme make this house the finest dwelling in the district. The Crumpacker-McPherson House is a five-bay, single-pile, center-passage-plan house with a brick cornice and large regularly-spaced openings. An added two-story porch, door surround, and late nineteenth-century window sash do not seriously detract from the house's original character. An unusual corner fireplace in the ell and paneled wainscot throughout the main house distinguish the interior.

The subsoils around the house at the Woods-Grubb Farm were tested as part of the project leading to this nomination. Test units produced over 1,800 artifacts, mostly relating to architectural features or kitchen activities. Prehistoric lithic artifacts were also recovered. Thus, a prehistoric component is also located around the house. Historic-period ceramics were located near a smokehouse site yielding a median date of 1815 (Loftstrom 1976) relating them to the earliest historic occupation of the site. The limestone foundation for a previously removed room on the south front of the house was also located. A nearby tanyard site also tested as part of this nomination yielded evidence of intact tanning pits and portions of wooden drainage pipes. The relatively small tannery was tentatively dated to a pre-1870 period by ceramics and other artifacts recovered from the pits.

Early agricultural buildings are found at the Thomas Rutledge Farm (a stone springhouse), the Patterson-Eakin Farm (an important double-crib log barn with overhangs on the long sides and a log meat house), and the Crumpacker-McPherson Farm (an apparently third-quarter nineteenth-century frame bank barn, one of very few in the county dating from before the late nineteenth century). All of these buildings may postdate their accompanying houses, as farm complexes were built gradually, or as earlier outbuildings were replaced.

A second generation of large, two-story houses was built along the river during the antebellum period. The James Brown House (60-330), the Slusher House (60-319), the Rutledge House (60-315), and the Crose Henderson House (60-320) all follow the popular single-pile, center-passage form. The Slusher House probably predates the other houses, but has many of the same characteristics, including Greek Revival trim in combination with

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very traditional elements such as a wainscot, a flush-boarded porch wall, and an external end chimney. The James Brown House has a hipped roof and a two-story, central front porch with pattern-book-derived, paired, Greek Revival columns. The house is related to the construction of a series of similar hip-roofed houses in the county. It is dated by an extant carpenter's bill of 1852 and is still owned by the original owner's descendants. It is the oldest frame house in the valley. The Rutledge House and the Crose Henderson House are very similar to the James Brown House except that they are built of brick and do not retain early porches. Both have added wide, one-story porches across their fronts. The James Brown Farm includes several small log outbuildings.

Center-passage-plan houses continued to be built after the Civil War, as exemplified by the John Brown House (60-327) and the George Robinson House (60-323). Both share the regionally popular log tradition in their agricultural outbuildings. The frame John Brown House resembles the previously mentioned brick houses in many particulars including Greek Revival trim, a hipped roof, and a three-bay facade. The farm includes a fine log double-crib barn. The George Robinson House was also built shortly after the war. It has a gabled roof and a large two-story porch with sawn ornamentation that is more typical of the later nineteenth century. The farm buildings include a log double corncrib with a center drive-through.

The McDonald family, from Botetourt County, settled along the river in the upper section of the district before 1800. They built a log house and an unusual stone bank barn (both now gone). Their farm had already been the site of two mills when they built a large flour mill on the river in the 1850s. The McDonald Mill (60-357) survives today and is in very good condition. The two-story three-bay frame structure is built into a bank on a high coursed-rubble foundation. Traces of the millrace and wheel pit are still visible. This mill supplied farmers throughout the area with meal and flour in return for a toll or portion of the grain. Bennetts Mill (60-322), a large brick structure on the site of an earlier mill at the bottom of Mill Creek, is an ambitious late nineteenth-century industrial building. The two-story mill contains no equipment and appears to have been steam- rather than water-powered. Little documentary history exists for this mill.

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During the mid- to late nineteenth century the traditional log house forms continued to be employed. Approximately ten log houses, all of the single-pen form, were surveyed. Some may have originally been divided into a two-room or hall-parlor plan by a frame partition, as seems to have been the case at the Cagney Farm (60-352) located on Crawford Ridge above Gallion Branch at the northeastern edge of the district. The house, which is believed to have been built around the time of the Civil War by the Cagney family, was expanded by the addition of a frame center-passage section, relegating the log part to the status of an ell. A log meat house and terraces that were apparently built for fruit trees can be found in the immediate area of the house.

Other farms from the period include the Smith Farm (60-321) on Mill Creek above Bennetts Mill, a two-story single-pen log house; the Robinson Farm (60-366) which includes a two-story log hall-parlor house with an associated small frame gristmill, located on the steeply sloping land along Dry Run; and a farm complex (60-329) that includes a two-story log house with a stone chimney and an impressive group of farm buildings consisting of a V- and saddle-notched log barn, a frame center-aisle barn, and a log corncrib, all arranged in an open space.

A group of farms was built during the second half of the nineteenth century near the crest of Paris Mountain. Six log houses and three associated barns were located on or below the summit of Paris Mountain. All of these buildings are occupied or in use as seasonal cottages. The Solver Farm (60-325) on the north slope of Paris Mountain includes a one-story, single-pen dwelling; a log, single-crib barn; and a log chicken house and corncrib. The Joe Wells House (60-302) and the nearby Owen and Rufus Wells House (60-301) are both two-story, nearly square, single-pen log houses. The Wells brothers raised sheep and cattle and planted crops on the opposite (south) side of the mountain ridge. The Joe Wells House has a saddle-notched log barn, now abandoned. The farm is located at the head of Austin Hollow, which is still cleared for cattle grazing. The one- and two-story log houses at 60-409, 60-411, and 60-412 are just below the summit of the mountain on the south side. The one- and two-room farmhouses show no evidence of a construction date prior to the late nineteenth century. The farm at 60-411 has a single-pen, saddle-notched barn, while 60-409 retains an extensive section of cleared land. Small cleared or recently overgrown

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patches are located along the length of the ridge along with two notable geographic features. The "Acre of Rocks" and the "Half Acre of Rocks," as they are known locally, are unusual, nearly horizontal flat areas of exposed rock. The clearings may represent outlying fields of a mountainside farmer or the site of a now-vanished farm.

During the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century several new houses were built in the valley using light sawn lumber. Such houses are exemplified by the house at 60-328, a hall-parlor or center-passage house below Johnson Ridge, and the house at 60-317, a large two-story center-passage house with a two-story porch incorporating sawn decorative trim. Few large new farmhouses were constructed because the valley's existing housing stock was apparently considered adequate, and few new farms were developed in the bottomland areas. Thirteen double-cell houses were located in the survey, seven of which were of a single story, and six of which were of double-pile form. These houses were probably used as small farmhouses and tenant houses, as described in the domestic architecture context.

The village of Lusters Gate developed at the junction of the road along the bottom of the valley (VA Route 785) and the road up the Alleghany Ridge to Blacksburg. The road from Botetourt County to Blacksburg had been incorporated in 1860 as the Blacksburg, Catawba, and Fincastle Turnpike, but does not seem to have been improved greatly until the late nineteenth century. The name Lusters Gate, however, may represent a tollgate in connection with the turnpike. While no buildings are shown at the intersection on the 1864 Confederate Engineers Map, within several decades the crossroads community had begun to grow. The store at Lusters Gate (60-303) is one of only two contributing commercial resources in the district. This general store, which dates from the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century, takes a typical two-story gable-fronted form. Architectural features include a standing-seam metal roof and two-over-two sash windows; the store bears few decorative details other than a projecting side bay incorporating a secondary entry, perhaps originally leading into the storekeeper's residence. In the 1930s a cooperative cheese factory (60-304) was built directly across from the store. The factory responded to the economic realities of the Great Depression and to the burgeoning dairy industry in the county, particularly in the North Fork Valley. By 1935 the small brick structure was producing 64,000 pounds of cheese a

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year. It is vacant at this time.

Two second-quarter twentieth-century structures illustrate a self-conscious return to historic building materials. The small abandoned commercial building at 60-326 and the residence adjacent to the McDonald Mill (60-357) are perhaps by their rarity most indicative of the resistance to change in the district. Both buildings used slender, round logs as a decorative and structural material.

Farm buildings from the twentieth century make up the majority of structures in the district today. These tend to be simple frame buildings with gable roofs and vertical board walls. Brick and tile silos, brick and concrete-block milking parlors, and frame sheds, garages, corncribs, and vehicle sheds predominate. These are usually arranged in a cluster near the farmhouse. Domestic outbuildings include smokehouses or meat houses, offices, henhouses, and springhouses, and these are generally located just to the rear of the farmhouse, along with perhaps a large vegetable garden. Surrounding most houses are gardens and lawns which are usually enclosed by wire fences although ornamental picket fences once predominated. Trailers and other noncontributing elements have been constructed or added adjacent to existing contributing buildings. Modern houses have been built on isolated lots throughout the district. Ten of them are located in two subdivisions in wooded areas invisible from public roads.

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NOTE: All resources are contributing unless marked (NC) for noncontributing. Some properties are represented by two-part survey numbers given in a previous county survey (e.g. 60-320; 60-355). They were not reassigned historic district property numbers which are three-part numbers (e.g. 60-574-1, 60-574-89).

| PROPERTY SURVEY NUMBER | RESOURCE TYPE |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 60-378 | Plank Farm: mid-19th-century, two-story, log dwelling; frame outbuilding; modern dwelling (NC) |
| 60-574-1 | Marshall Hahn Farm: modern Colonial Revival dwelling (NC) with two frame dependencies (NC); 1910s, 1 1/2-story, frame dwelling with large frame shed (NC) and concrete block outbuilding (NC); mid-to-late-19th-century, 1 1/2-story, log dwelling converted into a barn; two frame barns (NC); large frame shed (NC); corncrib (NC); two modern barns (NC); frame shed (NC) |
| 60-315 | Rutledge Farm: mid-19th-century, two-story, brick, Greek Revival dwelling; four concrete block outbuildings (NC); concrete and frame barn (NC); concrete block milking parlor (NC); concrete block carpenter shop (NC); drive-through corncrib (NC) |
| 60-574-2 | modern brick dwelling (NC); two modern barns (NC) |
| 60-574-3 | modern brick dwelling (NC); frame barn (NC); frame corncrib (NC) |
| 60-574-4 | modern frame dwelling (NC) |
| 60-304 | Cooperative Cheese Factory: 1930s, one-story, brick factory |

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- 60-303 Lusters Gate General Store: late-19th-century two-story, frame store; frame wellhouse
- 60-574-5 two modern brick dwellings (NC)
- 60-574-6 modern brick and frame dwelling (NC)
- 60-574-7 modern frame dwelling (NC)
- 60-316 early-20th-century, one-story, frame Lusters Gate School
- 60-574-8 modern trailer (NC)
- 60-574-9 modern trailer (NC)
- 60-317 early-20th-century, two-story, frame, hip-roofed dwelling; frame garage; two farm buildings (NC); modern garage (NC)
- 60-318 Rutledge House: 19th-century, two-story, log dwelling; stone springhouse
- 60-319 Slusher House: mid-19th-century, two-story, frame dwelling
- 60-409 late-19th-century, two-story, log dwelling
- 60-574-10 modern dwelling (NC)
- 60-574-11 modern dwelling (NC)
- 60-320 Crose Henderson House: mid-19th-century, two-story, brick dwelling; 1 1/2-story, frame outbuilding; frame garage
- 60-574-12 early-20th-century frame dwelling; frame garage; frame barn
- 60-574-13 early-20th-century, one-story, frame, hip-roofed dwelling; frame outbuilding
- 60-574-14 frame dwelling; frame barn

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- | | |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 60-574-15 | modern dwelling (NC) |
| 60-574-16 | modern log dwelling (NC) |
| 60-574-17 | modern frame dwelling (NC) |
| 60-574-18 | modern frame dwelling (NC) |
| 60-574-19 | modern frame dwelling (NC) |
| 60-574-20 | modern frame dwelling (NC) |
| 60-574-21 | modern frame dwelling (NC) |
| 60-574-22 | modern frame dwelling (NC) |
| 60-574-23 | modern frame dwelling (NC) |
| 60-574-24 | modern frame dwelling (NC) |
| 60-574-25 | 19th-century Anderson Cemetery - contributing site |
| 60-574-26 | 1940s concrete block dwelling (NC); frame outbuilding (NC) |
| 60-574-27 | early-20th-century stone springhouse; modern frame dwelling (NC); frame outbuilding (NC); concrete block milking parlor (NC); concrete block outbuilding (NC); modern carport (NC) |
| 60-574-28 | two mid-20th-century farm buildings (NC) |
| 60-574-29 | modern frame dwelling (NC) |
| 60-574-30 | turn-of-the-century, one-story, frame, Roanoke Valley Presbyterian Church |
| 60-574-31 | mid-20th-century frame dwelling (NC) |
| 60-574-32 | modern frame dwelling (NC) |

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|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 60-574-33 | mid-20th-century concrete block dwelling (NC); four frame farm buildings (NC); concrete block silo (NC structure) |
| 60-574-34 | early-20th-century, two-story, hip-roofed, frame dwelling; gambrel-roofed frame barn; modern carport (NC) |
| 60-574-35 | modern frame dwelling (NC); two large frame sheds (NC) |
| 60-574-36 | modern frame dwelling (NC) |
| 60-574-37 | modern frame dwelling (NC); frame barn (NC) |
| 60-574-38 | modern frame dwelling (NC) |
| 60-574-39 | modern frame dwelling (NC); frame outbuilding (NC) |
| 60-574-40 | modern frame dwelling (NC) |
| 60-574-41 | modern frame dwelling (NC) |
| 60-321 | mid-19th-century, two-story, log dwelling |
| 60-574-42 | 1950s frame dwelling (NC); frame garage (NC) |
| 60-574-43 | early-20th-century, two-story, frame I house; gambrel-roofed frame barn; frame garage; frame chicken house; three small outbuildings; farm building with silos; modern garage (NC) |
| 60-322 | late-19th-century, three-level, brick Bennett's Mill; late-19th-century, two-story, frame dwelling; frame garage |
| 60-574-44 | early-20th-century, one-story, T-plan, frame dwelling; gambrel-roofed frame barn; three frame farm buildings (NC) |
| 60-574-45 | modern frame dwelling (NC); earlier concrete block springhouse; gambrel-roofed frame garage (NC) |

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|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 60-574-46 | modern frame dwelling (NC); gambrel-roofed frame garage (NC) |
| 60-325 | Solver Farm: late-19th-century, one-story, log dwelling; log henhouse; log corncrib; log barn |
| 60-323 | George Robinson Farm: mid-to-late-19th-century two-story, frame I house; log corncrib; frame barn; icehouse with granary above; 1850s to 1930s Bennett Cemetery - contributing site; modern frame barn with silos (NC) |
| 60-324 | modern frame and brick dwelling (NC) |
| 60-574-47 | modern frame dwelling (NC) |
| 60-326 | ca.1940 log roadside store |
| 60-327 | John Brown Farm: late-19th-century, two-story, frame I house; frame garage; log barn; log corncrib |
| 60-574-48 | early-20th-century, one-story, frame dwelling; concrete block garage (NC); frame smokehouse (NC); two chicken houses (NC) |
| 60-574-49 | modern brick dwelling (NC) |
| 60-328 | late-19th-century, two-story, frame I house; frame barn; frame corncrib |
| 60-329 | mid-to-late-19th-century, two-story, log dwelling; log barn; frame barn; frame corncrib; log corncrib; frame garage |
| 60-330 | James Brown Farm: 1852, two-story, frame, hip-roofed, Greek Revival dwelling; log outbuilding; frame outbuilding; log corncrib |
| 60-331 | mid-to-late-19th-century, one-story, log and aluminum sided dwelling |
| 60-574-50 | modern trailer (NC) |

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modern frame dwelling (NC)

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- 60-366 Robinson Farm: mid-19th-century, 1 1/2-story, log dwelling; two-level frame and stone mill; three frame outbuildings; log and frame corncrib/shed
- 60-574-52 ca.1900, two-story, frame dwelling
- 60-574-53 modern frame and brick dwelling (NC)
- 60-574-54 1950s, 1 1/2-story, brick dwelling (NC); early-20th-century frame barn
- 60-574-55 ca. 1900 frame barn
- 60-362 Woods-Grubb Farm: early-19th-century, two-story, Flemish-bond brick, side-passage-plan dwelling; ca.1910 frame smokehouse; frame corncrib; frame barn; large frame shed; concrete block farm building (NC); tanyard site; smokehouse site; brick kiln site
- 60-574-56 late 19th-century?, two-story, log dwelling in ruins; frame barn
- 60-574-57 modern frame dwelling (NC)
- 60-574-58 ca.1900, one-story, frame, T-plan dwelling; frame barn
- 60-574-59 1940s frame and concrete block barn (NC)
- 60-574-60 early-20th-century frame barn
- 60-574-61 ca.1950 frame dwelling (NC); frame outbuilding (NC)
- 60-574-62 1940s frame dwelling (NC); modern farm building (NC)
- 60-574-63 two early-20th-century frame barns; concrete block chicken house (NC)

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|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 60-360 | Crumpacker-McPherson Farm: mid-19th-century, two-story, Flemish-bond brick, I house; frame bank barn; frame smokehouse; concrete block springhouse (NC); frame garage (NC); large frame shed (NC); frame corncrib (NC); concrete block barn (NC) |
| 60-574-64 | modern frame dwelling (NC) |
| 60-574-65 | modern trailer (NC) |
| 60-574-66 | modern trailer (NC) |
| 60-301 | Owen and Rufus Wells Farm: mid-to-late-19th-century, two-story, log dwelling; two frame outbuildings; modern trailer (NC) |
| 60-302 | Joe Wells Farm: mid-to-late-19th-century, two-story, log and weatherboarded dwelling; log barn |
| 60-574-67 | modern frame and stone dwelling (NC) |
| 60-574-68 | modern frame dwelling (NC) |
| 60-574-69 | modern frame dwelling (NC); frame garage (NC) |
| 60-574-70 | modern frame dwelling (NC) |
| 60-574-71 | modern brick dwelling (NC) |
| 60-574-72 | 1920s, 2 1/2-story, frame, American Foursquare dwelling; frame springhouse; frame garage |
| 60-574-73 | 1940s frame and stucco dwelling (NC); concrete block garage (NC) |
| 60-574-74 | modern trailer (NC) |
| 60-574-75 | modern brick dwelling (NC) |
| 60-574-76 | 1940s?, gambrel-roofed, frame barn converted into dwelling (NC) |
| 60-574-77 | ca.1900 frame barn |

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| 60-574-78 | ca.1920, 2 1/2-story, frame, American Foursquare dwelling; |
| 60-574-79 | 1950s?, gambrel-roofed, frame barn (NC) |
| 60-574-80 | modern, Tudor Revival, frame dwelling (NC) |
| 60-574-81 | modern brick dwelling (NC); two frame outbuildings (NC) |
| 60-359 | mid-19th-century, one-story, frame, gable-fronted McDonald Mill Methodist Church |
| 60-411 | late-19th-century, two-story, log and weather-boarded dwelling; log barn; frame outbuilding |
| 60-412 | mid-to-late-19th-century, 1 1/2-story, log dwelling |
| 60-574-82 | ca.1900, two-story, frame dwelling |
| 60-574-83 | 1920s, one-story, frame dwelling; frame outbuilding; frame barn |
| 60-358 | late-19th-century, two-story, frame dwelling; frame outbuilding; concrete block outbuilding; (NC) |
| 60-574-84 | modern frame dwelling (NC) |
| 60-357 | mid-19th-century, three-level, frame and stone McDonald Mill |
| 60-574-85 | ca.1940, shed-roofed, frame equipment shed |
| 60-574-86 | ca.1940, one-story, log dwelling |
| 60-356 | ca.1900, two-story, frame dwelling; frame farm building |
| 60-574-87 | modern frame dwelling (NC) |

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|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 60-352 | Cagney Farm: mid-to-late-19th-century, two-story, log and frame dwelling; log meathouse; frame springhouse; frame corncrib |
| 60-574-88 | modern brick dwelling (NC) |
| 60-355 | mid-to-late-19th-century, two-story, log Patterson-Eakin House; log meat house; log barn; frame corncrib |
| 60-574-89 | early-20th-century, 1 1/2-story, frame dwelling; frame outbuilding; modern outbuilding (NC) |

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of the Roanoke River drain to the Atlantic Ocean and represent the southernmost reaches of the Great Valley of Virginia east of the continental divide. Land west of the Alleghany Ridge is drained by the New River which flows westward. The North Fork Valley was traversed by the Indian Road, which was ordered by the Orange County Court in 1745 and followed an early Indian trail. The first references to settlers in the area occurred in 1742, but no grants were secured until 1746, and some not until much later. Tobias Bright settled early on the North Fork in the broad area near where the road ascended the Alleghany Mountain to Draper's Meadow. His land, together with several other tracts, was purchased from James Patton in 1753. Patton patented 4,470 acres on the North Fork of the Roanoke River in 1751 on what was then referred to as the North Fork of Goose Creek. His land included a large part of the district. Tobias Bright received 590 acres near present Lusters Gate. Proceeding northeast along the valley, the other purchases made in that year from Patton were: James and William Gorrell (620 acres); George Pearis (271 acres); Erick Bright (207 acres); Elijah Isaac (378 acres); Thomas Hill (seventy acres); Benjamin Ogle (290 acres); William Pepper (580 acres); and Francis Cypher (400 acres called the Barrens). John Robinson purchased a 872-acre tract south of Lusters Gate, and his father, John Robinson, Sr., purchased 300 acres south of him. Many of these purchasers either sold out very soon, left during the French and Indian War, or eventually moved on, so that not until the 1760s was a regular pattern of ownership established.

John Robinson, Jr., who was a millwright, owned the land at the southern end of the district before his death in 1800. He built a mill in the late eighteenth century and his house supposedly stood where the Plank Farm (60-378) now stands; perhaps it is incorporated into the present log house. William Robinson owned the next tract to the north, just below Lusters Gate. His land is now the site of the Rutledge Farm (60-315). Robinson sold his property in 1798 to Edward Rutledge whose family continued to own the land into the twentieth century. Robinson's son, David, bought the next tract to the north on the east side of the river from the Gorrells and lived there until his death before 1806. Thomas Rutledge purchased this property, and is said by F. B. Kegley to have built the log house there (60-318). Tobias Bright's land was located to the west of David Robinson, but by 1774 he had sold it to Robert King whose family retained ownership for many years.

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The Pearis tract in the middle of the district was sold to John Henderson (died 1812) who gradually put together a large holding. The Hendersons eventually built a large house (60-320) on their farm in the mid-nineteenth century. All of the Patton tract of 4,470 acres was not sold immediately or may have reverted. In 1765 Andrew Woods of Albemarle County bought 275 acres from Patton's executors, adjoining the land of William Pepper. His descendant, James Woods, had accumulated 699 acres by 1800. He is supposed to have built the Woods-Grubb House (60-362). Woods's heirs sold the land to John Brown in 1818, who with his relative, George Brown, had been acquiring land on the North Fork since the 1780s. George Brown was given leave by the county to build a mill on the North Fork in 1791. Much of that land still remains in the Brown family although the Woods-Grubb Farm has been in the hands of the Grubb family for several generations.

Further to the northeast the McDonalds, primarily George McDonald, Sr. and George McDonald, Jr. acquired 415 acres by the fourth quarter of the eighteenth century and had permission to build a mill in 1794. The McDonald house and barn recorded in the 1930s (Kegley's Virginia Frontier) no longer stand. George McDonald's daughters' marriages are illustrative of the closeness of the community in the second quarter of the nineteenth century. Ann McDonald married a neighbor, Redmond Eakin. Mary married Samuel Henderson, and Susanna married John Robinson. Other late eighteenth-century landowners who sold their land or moved west include Jacob and John Vanlear, Thomas Raeburn (who inherited considerable land south of McDonalds Mill from his father, Joseph, in 1799), and Frederick Smith, whose land was bought by the McDonalds. Parts of the Raeburn lands were sold in 1812 and were eventually acquired by Peter Crumpacker. He is said (by a descendant) to have built the Crumpacker-McPherson House (60-360) soon after acquiring the land (Lester). Redmond Eakin was living in a house (60-355) on the Roanoke County line in 1849 when the new county line was drawn. He had purchased the property in the early years of the century from John Patterson.

Most of the farms created during the late eighteenth century remained in their early form and many were owned by the same families until well into the twentieth century. The James Brown and Eakin farms remain in original family hands today, while the Woods-Grubb Farm and several others have been held by the same family since the mid-nineteenth century.

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During the late eighteenth century, farms often consisted of a few acres of arable bottomland, a meadow, an orchard, and a large amount of timberland in which cattle and swine grazed. The production of livestock, driven to market on the hoof, was the principal agricultural activity in the region. Crops were probably fenced from the free-ranging animals with post-and-rail and worm fences.

During the first half of the nineteenth century large numbers of cattle and sheep were raised in the county. Corn seems to have been the predominant crop, as well as wheat, oats, rye, hemp, flax, and tobacco. More land was cleared as the years passed, and the settlement of the valley became denser. Agricultural outbuildings survive in the district from the antebellum period. Several log, double-crib barns are associated with some of the large farms in the bottomland. Log smokehouses, used to cure hams produced on the farms, and log corncribs, used to store corn for winter cattle feed, survive in significant numbers from the period.

Prosperous families, such as the Rutledges, Browns, Hendersons, Hoges, and Crumpackers, owned some of the largest farms during most of the nineteenth century and built large brick and frame dwellings to dramatize their social positions and prestige in the community. Other families chose to continue dwelling in expanded or augmented log dwellings, or to build new dwellings in traditional forms and materials. The form of the land and the patterns of its exploitation visibly characterize the valley to this day with its large pastures, cultivated bottomland, and high wooded slopes.

In the late 1850s citizens in the area organized to incorporate the road through the valley as the Blacksburg, Catawba, and Fincastle Turnpike, but it is not clear whether it ever was improved or maintained as a turnpike. Few changes have altered the size or scale of farming in the valley since the coming of the turnpike. Slave labor was replaced by hired or tenant help. Several large houses and a church (McDonalds Mill Methodist) were constructed soon after the Civil War, but these tended to be built in the styles popular before the war rather than introducing the Italianate or other period styles popular in other parts of the county.

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries several

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more churches, including the now demolished Fairview Church south of the village of McDonalds Mill and the extant White Church near Bennetts Mill, were built. Like the McDonalds Mill Methodist Church (60-359), the oldest of the two surviving churches in the district, these churches followed the traditional nave plan, with a simple gabled front and no steeple or projecting vestibule. Commercial development was seen in the late nineteenth-century hamlet of Lusters Gate, at McDonalds Mill, and in a small gable-fronted building near the site of the Fairview Church. At Lusters Gate and the Fairview Church site commercial buildings still survive. Small-scale industrial concerns flourished from the earliest periods; weaving, milling, tanning, and brick-making were practiced in the valley. Remnants of these activities include the structures at McDonald Mill (60-357) and Bennetts Mill (60-322), large mills dating from the mid-nineteenth and late nineteenth centuries respectively, and the small gristmill at the Robinson Farm (60-366), probably built for local custom milling in the mid-nineteenth century. The dam structure representing an earlier mill at the Bennetts Mill site appears on the Confederate Engineers Map of 1864 near the name Johnson.

The tanyard at the Woods-Grubb Farm (60-362), partially excavated as part of the project leading to this nomination, and a nearby brick kiln site represent the small-scale industries in the valley during the nineteenth century. The limestone-lined pits and associated wooden pipes are intact. It is the only intact archaeologically-investigated tanyard of its kind in Montgomery County and, perhaps, Southwest Virginia. The tanning pits and hollow wooden pipes provided tangible evidence for the study of local tanyard technology. Research in the area of small tanning facilities and additional excavations at the site might better explain the adaptation of cottage-scale industries during the nineteenth century. The cheese factory at Lusters Gate in the 1930s (60-304) represents an unusual industry based on the dairy production of the area and the serious economic constraints of the Great Depression.

The change in farming practices during the nineteenth century and into the twentieth century resulted in the removal or replacement of many historic agricultural structures. The mid-to late nineteenth-century barn at the Crumpacker-McPherson Farm (60-360) represents the popular frame bank barn, recommended by agricultural journals and the press during the period. The

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McDonald barn (now gone) near McDonalds Mill, an extraordinary stone bank barn probably dating from the first half of the nineteenth century, may have served as a prototype. The ascendancy of the bank barn as one of the most popular barn types accompanied extensive dairy farming in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Several early twentieth-century bank barns exist in the district today with concrete block basements and frame upper floors, representing the last period of the bank barn's popularity in this century. The increased use of hay and the ensilage of fodder in the early twentieth century caused the appearance of large, simple, frame hay barns and wood, brick, and tile silos.

During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries houses were built for tenants and small farmers. These often followed the traditional hall-parlor and single-pen forms and employed log as a construction material; however, the more readily available light sawn lumber and the simple double-cell and center-passage plans were also used. In some cases, such as at the Cagney Farm (60-352), the enlargement of a log house took the form of a center-passage house. Many upland and ridgeline areas never before settled were developed as farms and then abandoned during the period from 1860 to 1950. Such farms often specialized in fruit production and the raising of sheep and other livestock. Today most of the upland farms and tenant houses that have survived are used only marginally. Many are rented, some are vacant, and most of them are used as hunting lodges or vacation cabins, although at least one largely inaccessible dwelling, the Joe Wells house (60-302) high on Paris Mountain, remains occupied by its owner, whose family has lived there for many decades.

The valley today has a pastoral setting with little-traveled roads and represents a largely unaltered community from earlier periods. It remains a farm-based community that has preserved many practices from earlier days such as the growing, milling, and preparation of sorghum molasses at the Woods-Grubb Farm using traditional equipment and methods. In several areas new residences have been built, responding to the growth of nearby Blacksburg (the southern boundary of the district is the beginning of the Blacksburg Country Club). The newest houses have been built in two small areas of subdivided land high on the ridges on the district's northwest edge. Other new residents have chosen to purchase and restore existing historic properties.

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In one case the site of a vanished house was developed as a vineyard. The well-designed new house at the vineyard (60-324) utilized the pre-existing cellar for wine storage. In a few cases new dwellings and other buildings are located on open farmland, chiefly near Lusters Gate, but most of the 137 noncontributing structures are hidden in wooded areas in the sloping upland area on the northwest side of the district. These buildings are well sited and do not detract from the visual integrity of the district.

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thence south 1,000 feet to point C, thence 1,000 feet west to point D, thence with the ridge 1 1/10 miles southwest to the intersection with a 2,400 foot contour line crossing the ridge at point E, thence south following the contour line approximately three miles to point F on the contour line due east of point G on VA Route 723, thence with said line west two miles to point G on VA Route 723, thence north 1 4/10 miles with the east side of VA Route 725 to point H at the south property line of site 60-303 (the Lusters Gate Store), thence 200 feet with the south property line to point I, thence north 200 feet west of VA Route 785 to point J on Indian Run, thence northwest with Indian Run 250 feet to point K, thence due north 1 4/10 miles to point L on Mossey Spring Branch, thence due east 4/10 of a mile to point M on the 2,100 foot contour line, thence with the said contour line approximately one mile to point N west of the junction of Mill Creek and a branch in Turkeypen Hollow, thence east 6/10 of a mile to point O on the 2,100 foot contour line, thence with the said contour line generally northeast to point P, thence about 2,000 feet east to point Q, thence with the 2,100 foot contour line to point R due west of a point S on the 2,100 foot contour line corresponding to a point on Pepper Run 7/10 of a mile north of VA Route 785, thence east 3/10 of a mile crossing Peppers Run at said point to point S, thence with the 2,100 foot contour line to a point T west of a point U on the 2,100 foot contour line corresponding to a point on Smith Run 9/10 of a mile north of VA Route 785, thence east 1/10 of a mile crossing Smith Run at said point to point U, thence with the 2,100 foot contour line to point V west of a point W on the Roanoke-Montgomery County line 6/10 of a mile north of VA Route 785, thence east 6/10 of a mile to point W, thence with the county line south 1 2/10 miles to the point of origin.

U T M References - continued

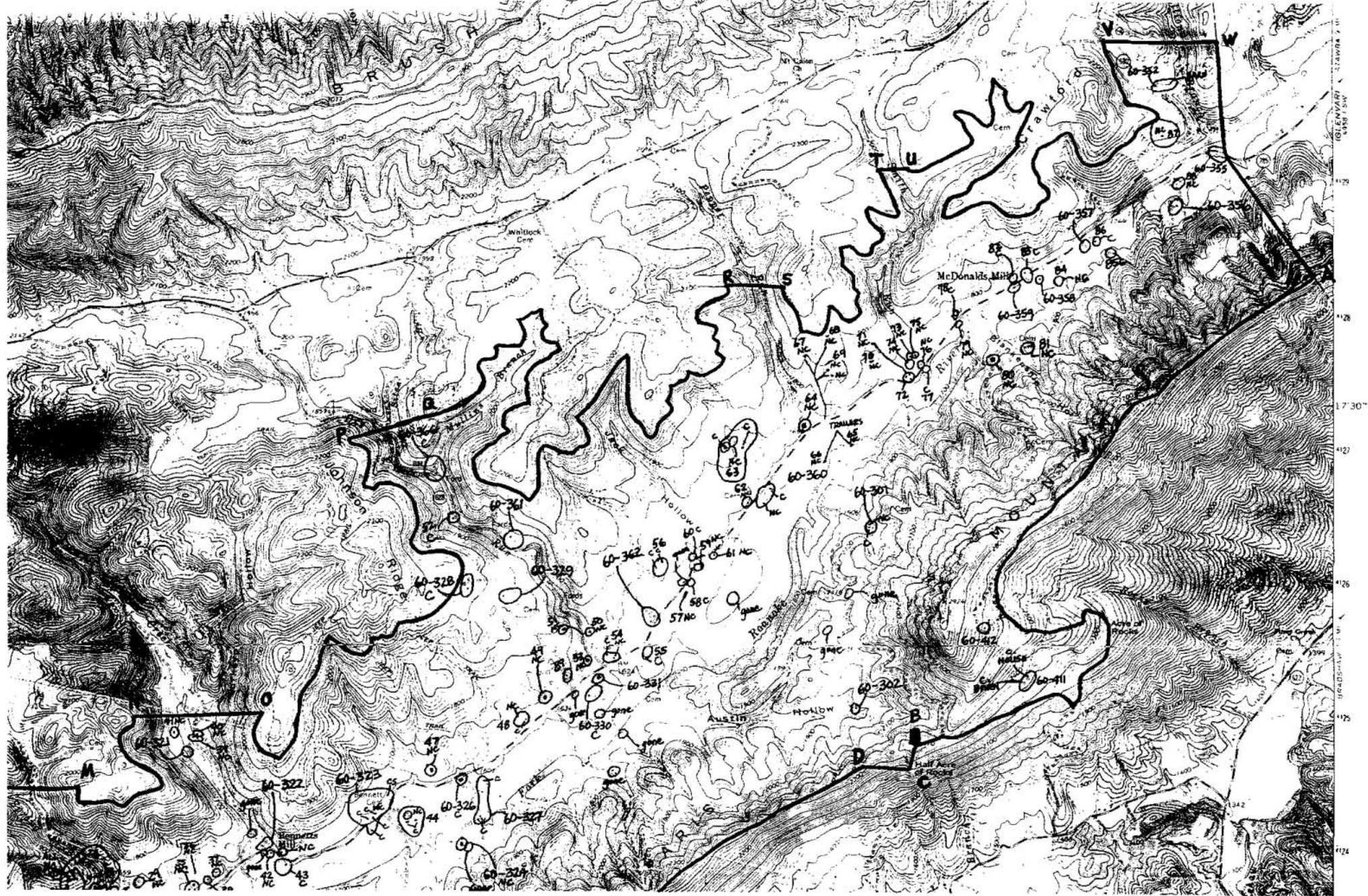
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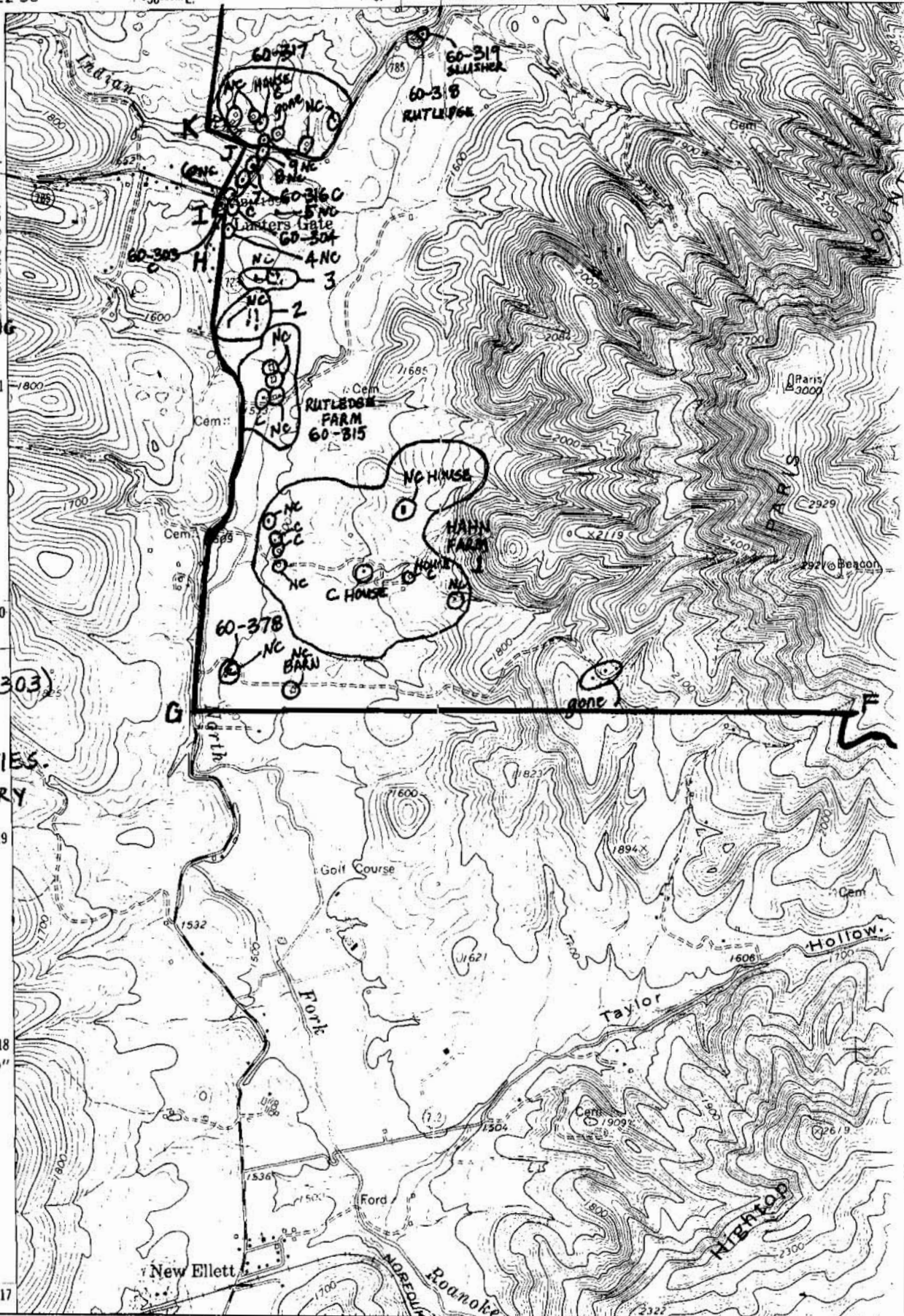
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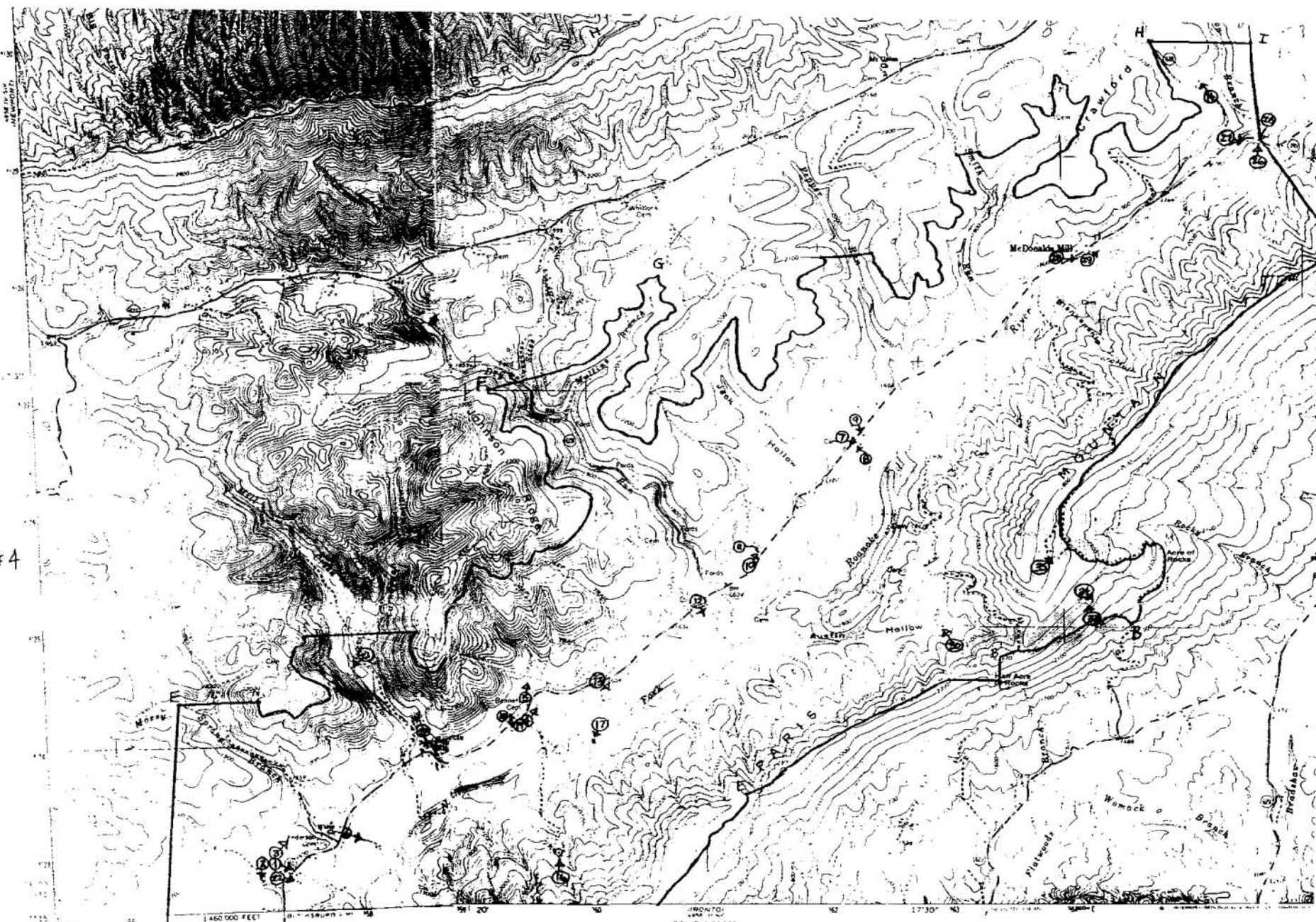
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ALL SINGLE DIGITS ARE PRECEDED BY DISTRICT NUMBER- 60-574-? REFER TO INVENTORY FOR MORE INFORMATION ON EACH PROPERTY

ALL TWO-PART
NUMBERS (e.g. 60-303)
ARE PREVIOUSLY
SURVEYED PROPERTIES.
REFER TO INVENTORY



NAP 3 OF 4



Map edited and published by the Geological Survey
 Contour by SSS and USGAS
 --- Map from aerial photographs

SCALE 1:24,000

NORTH FORK VALLEY RURAL HISTORIC

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
 Medium duty
 Light duty
 Unimproved dirt

4958 IV SW
(NEWPORT)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH
DIVISION OF MINES
JAMES L. CALVER

80°22'30"
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MC DONALDS MILL 6 MI.

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MAP 4 OF 4

4122000m N

NORTH FORK
VALLEY RURAL
HISTORIC DISTRICT
60-574

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